

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5, 7, 12, 15, 16, 23, 24, 29 and 30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 5, 7, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 29 are amended, and claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 14, 17-22, 25-28 and 32 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Support for the amendments to claims 3, 5, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 29 can be found at least in the subject matter of claims 4 and 6. Claim 7 is amended for dependency. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 12 is allowed. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submit that the other pending claims are also allowed for at least the reasons discussed below.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3-7, 15, 16, 23, 24, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection of claims 3, 5, 7, 15, 16, 23, 24, 29 and 30 is traversed, and the rejection of canceled claims 4 and 6 is moot.

By this Amendment, independent claim 3 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejection. Further, independent claims 5, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 29 are similarly amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which is the same as the subject matter of claim 6. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 5, 7, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 29, and claim 30, which depends from claim 29, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 10, 20 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0051884 A1 to Wallis et al.; claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18,

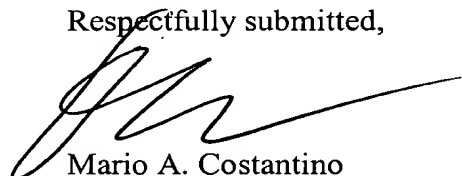
22, 25, 26 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wallis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,479 B1 to Nelson; and claims 19 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wallis in view of Nelson and further in view of an Official Notice. The rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 8-10, 14, 17-20, 22, 25-28 and 32. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 4, 2008

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